

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY/AF/W/JWVINCENT:LB

1/30/74 EXT. 23395

AF/W-MR. LOUGHRAN

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R 302132Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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THE FOL TEL FROM DAKAR DATED JAN 26, 1974 T O SECSTATE
WASHDC IS REPTED:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 0457

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: SCUL SG US

SUBJ: JACKSON FIVE TO VISIT DAKAR

1. JOHNNY SECKA HAS PROMOTED JACKSON FIVE VISIT TO DAKAR
AS HIS MAJOR ACTIVITY SINCE HE RECENTLY RETURNED TO DAKAR
FROM EXTENDED STAY IN US. HE HAS ENLISTED SUPPORT OF
SENEGALESE TOURISM OFFICIALS WHO HAVE SIGNED CONTRACT WITH
HIM AND PULBIC RELATIONS FIRM TO PRODUCE SHOWS AT LOCAL
STADIUM AND NATIONAL THEATER ON FEBRUARY 1, 2 AND 3.
WITH ASSISTANCE OF DELEGATE GENERAL FOR TOURISM, SECKA
HAS PERSUADED LOCAL PAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO OBTAIN
FREE TICKETS FROM PAN AM NEW YORK FOR TWENTY FIVE PEOPLE
IN JACKSON FIVE PARTY. LOCAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN HAS
BEGUN AND TICKETS ARE ON SALE.

2. BASED ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH SECKA, EMBASSY FINDS
RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY COULBARY AND FALL WELL FOUNDED.
SECKA HAS TRIED ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS TO ADVANCE PROJECT
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BY IMPLYING EMBASSY ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT. IN FACT

EMBASSY WAS NOT CONSULTED ABOUT PLANS AND HAS THUS FAR MAINTAINED DISTANCE FROM THE PROJECT BECAUSE OF OUR OWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT SECKA BASED PARTLY ON OUR UNSATISFACTORY IMPRESSION OF HIM AND PARTLY ON RUMORS OF A CLOUDED REPUTATION. AMONG OTHER THINGS, SECKA REPORTEDLY HAS APPROPRIATED NAME OF LEGITIMATE GAMBIAN ARTIST, THE REAL JOHNNY SECKA, AND TRADED ON IT DURING HIS RECENT US STAY TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO IMPORTANT FIGURES SUCH AS JACKSON FIVE.

3. IN OUR OWN EFFORTS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SECKA WE WERE INFORMED BY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM FAYE THAT HE IS SUPPORTED BY TOURISM OFFICE BECAUSE OF REPUTATION HE ENJOYS WITHING THE UPS AS DYNAMIC YOUTHFUL SUPPORTER OF PARTY AND PRESIDENT. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT HE PROBABLY HAS GAINED CONFIDENCE OF SOME WELL PLACED PARTY OFFICIALS, AND POSSIBLY EVEN PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO ARE NOT YET AWARE OF HIS POTENTIAL FOR FREEWHEELING AND UNSCRUPULOUS EXPLOITATION OF THEIR SUPPORT.

4. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT ONWARD TRAVEL OF JACKSON FIVE.

5. IF IN REQUESTING INSTRUCTION AMBASSADOR COULBARY COMMUNICATED TO GOS THE BASIS FOR HIS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN SECKA IT MIGHT PROVE VERY USEFUL, SINCE TOURISM OFFICIALS HERE SEEM UNAWARE OF IT. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON PLANS FOR THE VISIT AND ON ACTIVITIES OF SECKA, WHO IS NOW IN U. S. OUR CONCERN IS THAT POTENTIALLY VALUABLE CULTURAL EVENT MIGHT FOUNDER BECAUSE OF HIS MISHANDLING. ON OTHER HAND, FEEL THERE ARE LIMITS HOW FAR WE CAN GO IN SEEMING ATTEMPT DISCOURAGE ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL VENTURE BY WHICH GOS APPARENTLY SETS CONSIDERABLE STORE. AGGREY

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